



MINUTES

Kane County Resource Committee
76 North Main Street
Kanab, Utah 84741
May 15, 2019

CHAIRMAN: Andy Gant-Absent

PRESENT: Tony Chelewski, Bart Battista, Jim Matson, Pam Hill, Charlie Saba, Byard Kershaw, Shannon McBride, Kane County Planner, Ade' Nelson, Assistant Planner, Reid Mann, Kane County Deputy Attorney; Wendy Allan, Administrative Assistant

ABSENT: Lance Jackson, Kelly Stowell

9:00 AM	Meeting called to Order	Shannon McBride
	Pledge of Allegiance	Ade' Nelson
	Invocation	Jim Matson

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Tony to approve the minutes of March 20, 2019. The motion was seconded by Pam Hill.

1. Updates

BLM updates – Shannon McBride: Byard & Shannon have attended several BLM meetings. PLPCO has been involved. One of them was a Section 106 meeting. The BLM is still working the final draft of the EIS. They are currently taking public comment on the KEPA lands and the adjustment of the lines.

Lou gave an update on the bridge at Bull Valley Gorge. With the recent moisture, the bridge collapsed. UDOT is working on a putting in a temporary bridge while we deal with the BLM and right-of-way widths.

Shannon indicated that in the Section 106 meeting they discussed three Travel Management Plans that they are going to defer. Cosmic Ashtray road approval is in the final EIS instead of TMP. This will allow for more tourism. Flag Point or Inchworm Arch access will have a change of route in the EIS. Other roads will be addressed in the TMP and not the EIS.

The BLM is now doing Special Recreation Management Plans to address the ATV/OHV use on KEPA and Monument lands. These plans will allow for signage and other things. The idea with this plan is to educate the public.

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There was a discussion on the effects of increased tourism; specifically White Pockets, Horseshoe Bend, Antelope Canyon, and Kanarraville Falls.

Forest Service Updates - Ade' Nelson: Ade' is working with the Forest Service (FS) on the revised language in the EIS. In coordination meeting, we let them know there were three main points we wanted in the EIS; we were promised the road, when we didn't get the road we filed an administrative appeal, following meetings with MacWhorter the County withdrew appeal with reliance on their promises that we would get the road. We then agreed to go through the NEPA process. They eventually agreed to add a couple of sentences. What they came up with was not acceptable. After correlation between Ade', Rob VanDyke, Reid Mann and Margaret Byfield, the County sent back a revised version of the paragraph that read, "In addition, the 2009 MTP decision was appealed by Kane County. As a condition of the resolution of this appeal Kane County withdrew the appeal based on the commitment that motorized access through the Robinson Creek area would be provided and was within the scope and analysis of the 2009 MTP. The Forest Service subsequently determined a new NEPA analysis would need to be prepared. This EIS is a continuation of that process." Ade' will follow up with Chris Wherli (FS) as to what happens now.

Byard indicated that Rob MacWhorter, in his position at the time, did not have authority to make the promises. Reid indicated that he was in a position of authority and when MacWhorter came back later asking the County to go through the NEPA process, the County agreed.

The original deadline on the DEIS was April 19, 2019. Garfield County has asked for a delay due to sage grouse and roads issues. The FS indicated that the roads could be addressed in a different process.

Several years ago, the County had an engineer review the trail for an original EA. We have never found a resolution on that EA. Margaret Byfield suggested we move forward from where we are right now. We can go back and work that angle if things do not go our way. Bart explained that all correspondence, including email, should be kept in the administrative record and that record can be requested at any time.

There has also been talk about developing an emergency exit route out of Bryce Woodlands. The heavy snow this year has slowed this process. There are two possible routes out. One crosses over private property. The other route would be through Forest Service area. Most of Bryce Woodlands is summer homes but a few of the lower homes have year round residents.

2. Review

Forest service section of the Kane County Resource plan.

The Resource Plan is our guideline, what Kane County wants to defend and the direction they want to focus on. Ade' and Shannon read this chapter in preparation for meetings with the Forest Service. There was concern about the length and the focus. There needed to be stronger emphasis on Kane County's needs and desires. We would like it to be concise, short and to the point.

Ade' explained that it was hard for her to read through it and glean the needed information. She would like to see it condensed and focus on goals and objectives. It needs a hard stance.

Bart indicated that the Resource Management Plan is too lengthy. He felt that much of the information could be appendices in the back. It can be organized so that it does not repeat itself. It needs to be focused on goals.

Ade' explained that there are 27 elements required to be addressed in the resource plan. Our plan is organized by region. We could organize it by issue rather than region to make it more user friendly.

Pam requested paper copies of the mining sections. Ade' agreed to send that out.

Jim asked to receive the documents in word form so they can be edited.

The resource committee was given a copy of the Forest Service section of Garfield County's Resource Plan. It is direct and to the point and easy to find the information you are looking for. These shorter plans are easier to assimilate and have more teeth to them.

Shannon expressed that the idea is to put anything we think we want to remove from the Resource Plan in an appendix in the back of the plan. Reid asked if we plan to move away from the seven region plan. Bart suggested outlining the regions and the elements and then combining the regions under each of the elements.

Jim added the Forest Service is getting ready to revise their plan. Kane County needs to have a plan that is concise and direct in order to drive the Forest Services' process.

Shannon explained that by consolidating the facts and the goals, we would have something we can read, understand and quote.

Reid asked what our review process would look like. Shannon explained that we want to rely on the strengths of the Resource Committee. Reid suggested everyone peruse the plan prior to the next meeting and make a list of gripes and list them out in the next meeting. Also, look at the format and see what makes most sense.

Shannon suggested getting away from the narrative and getting to the precise points.

Jim discussed how to address access issues and watershed. Shannon and Ade' stressed that we just want to condense and strengthen the plan. We will not remove critical information.

Ade' will send out the state code and the Resource Plan.

Bart talked about the development of Resource Plans. It is good to revise them regularly as goal and focus tend to change. It can be a development plan and talk about things the County would like to do. Reid indicated that our plan currently reads as a travel guide and we need to get it to be more like a business plan. We want it powerful and concise.

3. Assignments

Bart was assigned to follow up on some grant work for Kanab Canyon. The next grants are due in September. Last year they got about \$30,000 for removal of purple loosestrife, tamarisk and Russian olive. The first phase is done and they are starting the second phase. Best Friends is currently funding the tamarisk removal themselves. He has not made contact with Shauna Goldberry. They are looking at more grant programs for establishing more native plants and trees in the canyon area.

Pam was assigned to work with mining and minerals. There has not been much happening with uranium. A couple of US senators held a critical minerals update yesterday that included uranium and she is reviewing the minutes of that hearing. There is a company that may be interested in drilling on the San Rafael for uranium. We are still waiting on the White House regarding a study from the Department of Commerce on instituting a 25% uranium quota: meaning 25% of our nations' nuclear power must be powered by American uranium. If that quota is instituted it will have great effects on the uranium industry.

Byard indicated that Raul Grijalva (Sen- AZ) has introduced legislative to make the mining withdrawal on the strip permanent and immediate.

Bart asked if the Land Use office had access to EnE News. It follows all the environmental and natural resource legislation.

4. Reports

There is a Coral Pink Sand Dunes Tiger Beetle meeting Wednesday, May 22nd at the Coral Pink Sand Dunes.

Shannon attended a Kanab Area trails meeting. We did not have a representative in that meeting. They work on trail access among other things. It was suggested to have Kelly Stowell report back on those meetings.

Ade will attend a stake holder meeting for the Kaibab National Forest on May 20th. It does not directly affect us but she will attend as a good neighbor. Bart Indicated Best Friends also received an invite and plan to send someone. Ade' stated the FS plans to introduce their new Fire Management Officer.

Bart informed us that he has applied to be on the State's Resource Advisory Committee.

July 1st is a Forest Service Coordination Meeting.

Wendy will send update on meeting dates.

Adjourn 10:35am.